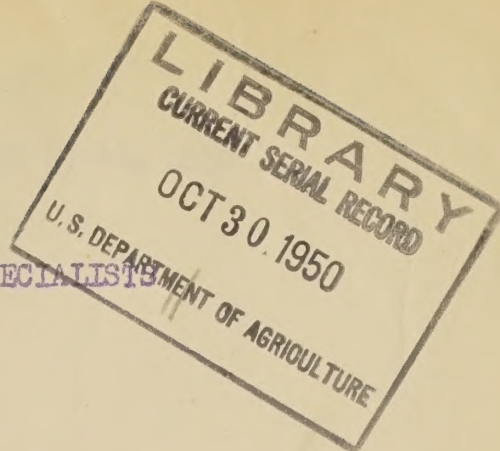


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WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE OF POULTRY SPECIALISTS
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
July 18 - 21, 1950



The Extension Poultryman of the eleven western states held a conference in connection with the Western States Conference of Extension Directors. The following Extension Poultrymen were present:

E. E. Anderson, Poultry and Dairy Specialist, State College, New Mexico
Noel L. Bennion, Extension Poultryman, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon
Harriette E. Cushman, Extension Specialist in Poultry, Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana
Boyd Ellis, Extension Poultryman, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming
W. R. Jenkins, Extension Poultryman, Utah State College, Logan, Utah
John P. Miller, Extension Poultryman, Washington State College, Pullman, Washington
W. E. Newlon, Extension Poultryman, Agricultural Extension Service, Giannini Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California
A. J. Reed, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada
A. S. Rosenwald, Extension Poultry Pathologist, Agricultural Extension Service, Room 2080, Vet Science Bldg., University of California, Davis, California
H. L. Shrader, Extension Poultryman, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.
O. C. Ufford, Extension Poultryman, Colorado A & M, Fort Collins, Colorado
W. R. Van Sant, Poultry and Dairy Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
Reed Merrill, Extension Poultryman, University of Idaho, Boise, Idaho (Was not able to attend)

PROGRAM FOR WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE
OF
EXTENSION POULTRYMEN AT FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA - JULY 18-21, 1950

Tuesday forenoon, July 18
General session with Directors

Tuesday afternoon, July 18
Chairman: W. R. Van Sant, Arizona
Subject : 10 to 15 minute report from each Specialist on the poultry situation in his state.

Wednesday forenoon, July 19
Chairman: Harriette Cushman, Montana
Subject : L-H Club poultry program, including subject matter, promotional work, exhibits, tours, demonstrations, judging and showmanship contests.

Wednesday afternoon, July 19
Chairman: H. L. Shrader, Washington, D. C.
Subject : Ways and means of extending subject matter, including visual aids, circular letters, bulletins, meetings, press and radio.

Thursday forenoon, July 20
Chairman: John Miller, Washington
Subject : The job of the Specialist, including services to the agents, relationship with industry organizations and national poultry and turkey improvement plans.

Thursday afternoon, July 20
Chairman: W. E. Newlon, California
Subject : New trends in poultry management, feeding, housing and marketing.

Friday forenoon, July 21
Chairman: W. R. Jenkins, Utah
Subject : New trends in turkey management, feeding, housing and marketing.

Friday afternoon, July 21
General session with Directors
Committee reports

WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE OF POULTRY SPECIALISTS
Tuesday P.M., July 18, 1950

W. R. Van Sant - Arizona - Chairman

Subject: Report from each Specialist on the poultry situation in his state.

The meeting was opened by Mr. N. L. Bennion Poultry Specialist of Oregon, Chairman of the Program Committee, stating that the Directors would meet with the poultrymen on Thursday morning. After a discussion of the program the group voted to take up the scheduled Friday A. M. program on Thursday A.M. since the subject would be more adapted to discussion with the Directors.

In reference to the requested report to be given at the final session of the Conference, Mr. W. E. Newlon of California was elected to give this report.

Mr. N. L. Bennion appointed Mr. Boyd Ellis of Wyoming secretary for the Tuesday sessions, Mr. E. E. Anderson of New Mexico secretary for the Wednesday sessions, Mr. O. C. Ufford of Colorado secretary for the Thursday sessions and Mr. A. J. Reed of Nevada secretary for the Friday sessions. These men with Mr. A. S. Rosenwald as Chairman were appointed as a committee to prepare the report for the Friday afternoon session.

Mr. W. R. Van Sant of Arizona, Chairman for the afternoon session introduced the subject for discussion, "The poultry situation in each state".

The combination of these reports gave the group an over-all picture of the poultry situation in the eleven western states. Furthermore, the problems in each state differed requiring different approaches by the extension service.

The most important trend brought out affecting all the western states was that the western states have changed from an exporting to an importing area during the past ten years. The group expressed a desire to go on record to recommend that there is room for some expansion of the poultry industry in the western states to meet the consumer demands, but that we should not go all-out in promoting increased production.

It was apparent from the first day's discussion that one of the major problems of the poultry specialist is the integration of certain national poultry and turkey improvement plan work with a true Extension or adult education program. This does not apply in some states but in many instances the Extension Poultryman is either the contact representative or serves in some official capacity and this demands a great deal of his time.

The record keeping projects - some maintained on a county and others on a state basis as in Montana - seem to be very worthwhile types of projects which makes for better understanding of poultry conditions within the state. It was suggested that copies of these projects, or at least of the summaries, be circulated to other Extension poultrymen in the Western region.

Price support was touched on but lightly but the feeling seemed to be that there was not very much that we, the Extension workers, could do to affect the determinations made in the Nation's capital. Most of the folks present did not feel that a program of differential price support would be particularly advantageous but rather that we should attempt to effect savings in feed costs by more efficient feeding methods and usage.

Wednesday A.M., July 19

Harriette Cushman - Montana - Chairman

Subject: 4-H Club poultry program, including subject matter, promotional work, exhibits, tours, demonstrations, judging and showmanship contests.

Discussion and recommendations

In enrolling members, encourage their taking projects that are practical for that particular area.

The project should be of such size as to constitute a practical economic unit.

The quality of work should be stressed rather than quantity.

Mother and Dad should be sold on the project.

More assistance should be given by qualified personnel, under Extension supervision, to help and encourage leaders through subject matter training as follows:

1. County, district, and state training schools.
2. Making available visual aids, publications, etc.

As a disease control measure live birds should not be returned from show or contest to the home flock.

Make greater use of demonstrations in spreading recommended poultry practices. Such demonstrations should be practical and adapted to areas where used.

Oregon reported on the development of poultry showmanship contests which were proving to be very practical in their state.

Wednesday P.M., July 19

H. L. Shrader - Washington, D. C. - Chairman

Subject: Ways and means of extending subject matter, including visual aids, circular letters, bulletins, meetings, press and radio.

Discussion and recommendations

County Agent Training

As a means of training agents, regional and travel conferences and short courses are deemed desirable. When necessary, the expense of these should be borne by the State Extension Office.

News Releases

More emphasis should be given to news releases which are sent direct to the County Agents. Such releases should be adopted by the agent and used as he sees fit.

Meeting

Meetings are an effective teaching tool, but quality of meetings should be the aim rather than quantity.

Specialist Conferences

More frequent conferences of poultry specialists in the Western States would be advantageous.

In discussing ways and means of extending information there was considerable discussion on visual aids in which we used the report of the National Conference on visual aids held at Cornell for a background. The statement was made that in attempting to make movies, interest a sponsor first to get the financial backing and then plan to spend plenty of time in doing it. Two by two slides on housing from Extension Specialist Bressler, Pennsylvania State are available. We suggested a regional clearing house for movies, slides and different publications. Mr. H. L. Shrader volunteered to expedite this matter.

Thursday A.M., July 20

John P. Miller - Washington - Chairman

Subject: The job of the Specialist, including service to the agents, relationship with industry organizations and national poultry and turkey improvement plans.

Discussion and recommendations

The Directors of the Western States met with the Extension Poultryman for the first half of the morning which was devoted to the discussion of this subject.

Chairman John Miller called on Mr. Noel L. Bennion to present a brief picture of the changes in the poultry industry which has taken place during the past ten years.

Mr. Bennion presented the changes based on the discussion given at the first of the sessions of the Extension Poultrymen.

Chairman John Miller presented the job of the Specialist based on the report of the Workshop held in Pullman, Washington.

Under the job of a specialist, the requirements were roughly divided into five fields:

1. Keeping posted
2. Maintaining relationships with industry and public service groups and other Extension and Agricultural workers
3. Preparation of the programs of work
4. Teaching
5. Evaluation

In the discussion with the directors, the matter of consumer education was brought out, and the matter of joint meetings with commercial concerns at top level was discussed and commended. Mr. Rosenwald discussed the integration of State Department of Agriculture and University and Extension work in poultry disease control as it worked in California. Mr. Miller discussed the Washington statewide disease control committee. This committee gives industry recommendations and passes them on to the proper authority for activation and effectuation. No finances are taken care of. All the members are self-paid or public servants. Mr. Shrader mentioned that the "Chicken of Tomorrow" committee was one committee in which he served which was adequately financed and therefore better able to effectuate their recommendations and commitments.

Director Anderson of Colorado mentioned the development of cooperative publications between various states, the loan of cuts and the purchase of publications by one state from another to fill needs. We also answered Director Wilson of the Federal Extension Service that the relationships with Smith-Hughes men was good; that this group paid for publications in some cases and that in case of emergency, poultry production could be expected to be increased as it was during World War II.

An important responsibility of the Specialist is strengthening the hand of the County Agent by various means, keeping him informed of the latest subject matter information on poultry.

Some plan should be worked out for exchange of publications among poultry specialists of the eleven western states. The U. S. Extension Poultryman will mail out to Specialists all publications mailed to him.

The U. S. Extension Poultryman agreed to get out a monthly list of newly published bulletins to Extension Poultrymen.

An important phase of the Extension Poultryman's work is an effective working relationship with commercial organizations.

On-the-farm visits with county agents are an important means of educating the agents.

Thursday P.M., July 20

W. E. Newlon - California - Chairman

Subject: New trends in poultry management, feeding, housing and marketing

Discussion and recommendations

The relationship of poultry specialists to disease prevention and diagnosis was discussed. We feel that the Extension Specialist should emphasize disease prevention through proper management and should encourage the establishment of adequate well-staffed diagnostic laboratories and their proper use.

Producers buying and using commercial feeds should not overload the feeds with high-powered supplements which may bring about an improper balance of nutrients causing poor results.

There are some outstanding developments in the use of antibiotics but the answers are not all known.

New developments are occurring in feed handling by using the bulk method.

Different systems of housing were discussed varying according to climatic conditions.

Improved marketing methods, particularly in cooling and refrigeration in stores was discussed. More emphasis should be applied to proper handling of eggs from the producer to consumer to stimulate greater consumption.

The state-wide poultry disease control committee operating in the State of Washington seems to set an excellent pattern for determining problems and attempting to find practical and satisfactory workable solutions to them. People in the industry, the producers themselves, the consumers, people in Extension, the Experiment Station, and the teaching staff, all form this committee.

We feel we should emphasize that there is a greater need for good in-service training and encouragement, that we need even greater assistance than that already obtainable in the field of visual aids and teaching helps since we are supposed to be subject-matter not method specialists. The privilege and advantage of being able to attend interstate conferences, national meetings, professional society meetings seemed to be emphasized as did the advantages of a sound sabbatical policy. This obviously is an administrative matter but those were the sentiments expressed.

We agreed that to be most effective the poultry program needed to be integrated well into the general Extension program and that local poultry programs needed to be practical and in line with farming or agriculture in the area or state. Assistance in marketing poultry products was discussed as it seemed to be quite a problem.

The disease control work varied very much depending on the availability of good diagnostic service in the various areas. In most states there seems to be a good but very informal working relationship with the veterinary group in the College or State Department but in some states, notably New Mexico, there is very little available to the poultryman in the way of competent free diagnostic service.

Friday A.M., July 21

W. R. Jenkins - Utah - Chairman

Subject: New trends in turkey management, feeding, housing and marketing.

A discussion took place regarding turkey poult confinement versus range raised birds.

Oregon: The turkey poult deal in Oregon is generally one in which birds are raised on the range.

California: The question was raised as to what should be considered as confinement in the raising of turkey poults.

The definition generally agreed upon was that under the confinement system, brooding would be done on wire or lathe up to six weeks to three months of age and then could be turned upon the range. Lathe or slats should be 3 inches by 1 inch, or 2 inches by 4 inch slats.

The Californians thought that even with the confinement, a part of the pen should be in litter.

The general thought was that turkeys raised in confinement suffered in poor legs, sore breasts, and those raised on the ground do not have these afflictions.

Washington: There is sufficient land in poultry ranges in Washington so that no new confinement installations will be built. The rotation system of pens or pastures is used there.

The confinement system increases production and cuts down on parasites.

Irrigated pastures are recommended in a rotation system in Montana and Washington.

California questioned the use of overhead sprinklers as an irrigation measure, but Montana and Oregon thought that overhead irrigation or sprinklers were all right.

Director M. L. Wilson at the meeting of the Poultry Section with the Directors had asked three questions:

1. Relationship of Specialists with the administrators and instructors of Future Farmers.
2. Relationship with other Specialists.
3. The place of home flocks in relation to a national emergency.

At this time Dr. Rosenwald read his report as General Secretary to the group. The report was amended, corrected, and deleted to the final satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. John Miller of Washington moved that the General Secretary's report be adopted and the Secretary thanked for his efforts.

Mr. Van Sant of Arizona seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Ralph Van Sant of Arizona offered to mimeograph the proceedings of the Poultry Section meetings which was accepted with thanks by the group.

California pointed out that adequate shade is needed in the raising of turkeys and an example was given wherein a California turkey raiser had lost 3600 birds in one flock in one heat spell.

Deep debeaking of turkeys and broilers was then discussed. The electric beak burner of 1000 watts was described and recommended.

Discussion then took place in regard to diseases. It was agreed that vaccination for fowl pox is standard procedure.

In regard to Newcastle disease in turkeys, Dr. Rosenwald thought that live virus vaccine is not necessary for young stock, but that the wing-web stick method is recommended for turkey breeding stock, as well as chicken broilers.

It was also pointed out that dead virus is used satisfactorily in broiler chicks.

Parental immunization as far as the poults are concerned may last from one day to six weeks.

It was also pointed out that the blackhead remedies added too much to the cost of turkey mashes as to be not justified.

Pellets versus mashes was discussed, and Oregon reported that no difference was found in gains, but that the additional cost did not seem to be warranted.

It was found that Oregon had experimented with three batches of turkey toms. One group was held in houses with heat, the second was held in houses without heat, and the third group was allowed to run outside at all times. Much more satisfactory results were obtained from the first group, especially in regard to early hatched poults.

It was further pointed out that the Oregon station had done work in regard to keeping turkey hens in well heated batteries and that the hens laid earlier and laid more eggs.

The Oregon Station also mentioned the fact that work had been done in regard to an open sided uncovered floor type of laying house now used generally in California.

H. L. Shrader made the request that 50 copies of new bulletins from Western College Experiment Stations and Extension Services be forwarded to him in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Rosenwald announced that the National Turkey Federation meeting would be held in Long Beach, California, January 9 - 14. He especially asked visiting Extension poultrymen to notify either him or Bill Newlon.

John Miller moved that Chairman Noel Bennion of Oregon be commended upon the program of the Poultry Section.

Dr. Rosenwald seconded the motion.

The motion was carried.

Dr. Rosenwald then gave a demonstration on the use of the flannel graph.

Report of the Sessions of the Extension Poultrymen at the Western Regional Extension Conference, Flagstaff, Arizona, July 18-21, 1950.

The poultry industry of the United States has produced annual gross income of three to three and a half billion dollars annually for the past several years. In income produced, it ranks third among the agricultural industries. The importance of the poultry industry in the western states varies. It ranks first in Utah and third or fourth in each of the three Pacific Coast states.

The discussions concerning the poultry situation in the various states of the western region brought out clearly that the industry and the problems involved could be divided roughly on several different bases. One division would be based on climatic conditions and on altitude. From a standpoint of problems, however, the states of Utah, Washington, Oregon and California fall into a group in which poultry, including turkeys, are produced on large numbers of commercial farms and in which the industry is a major commercial enterprise. In the remaining states - Idaho, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico - there are large numbers of farms on which poultry is produced, but a limited number of strictly commercial poultry flocks.

A significant change during the past ten years is that the Western Region has changed from an exporting to an importing area for market eggs. For this reason, there is room for some gradual expansion in the production of market eggs. This expansion should come on a sound basis.

Since this is an import area, the production and maintenance of high egg quality from producer to consumer is of prime importance. Proper enforcement of an adequate egg standardization act (Egg Law) will best accomplish this purpose.

High relative feed costs present a major problem.

The adjustment of the size of the chicken flock is a project that needs emphasizing. Producers should come under one of three categories.

1. The small flock of 25 birds or less.
2. A farm flock of 500 birds or more.
3. The commercial flock of 2,000 birds or more.

There has been a tremendous expansion in broiler production in the United States. Because this area is an importing section for poultry meat, we feel that the expansion in the broiler business should be on a conservative basis.

The Western Region is exporting a large quantity of market turkeys, hatching eggs, and poults. We feel that turkey meat production may need to be further curtailed in this area. However, we are in a good position to compete in the national market for hatching eggs and poults.

One significant point should be noted. Poultry is produced on nearly 90 per cent of all farms in the United States, while large numbers of suburbanites have home flocks. Since Agricultural Extension is concerned with reaching people, poultry as a commodity offers entree to a very large segment of both our rural and suburban population.

The discussions were divided into sessions on the poultry situation, 4-H club work, visual aids and other means of extending information, the job of the specialist, and newer trends in chicken and turkey production.

The Extension poultrymen respectfully submit the following suggestions to the Western Regional Extension Conference:

Since commodity specialists are the subject matter leaders in their fields, their work can be most effective when given maximum assistance in preparing information aids and teaching devices by specialists in those fields. All appreciate the valuable help we receive and welcome the continuation or expansion as possible.

In the field of 4-H club work we feel that the poultry program should be practical, adapted to the agricultural needs of the area, and that the individual project be of sufficient economic importance to maintain the interests of the young people and their parents. We also recommend that we strengthen the voluntary leaders by making available to them teaching aids and basic subject matter which will help them do the job of leadership so necessary in 4-H club work.

It has been suggested that the mechanics of a regional clearing house for movies, slides, publications, and other information aids be worked out. This doubtless could best be handled by the information specialists in our region.

Under the job of a specialist, the requirements were roughly divided into five fields:

1. Keeping posted.
2. Maintaining relationships with industry and public service groups and other Extension and agricultural workers.
3. Preparation of programs of work.
4. Teaching.
5. Evaluation.

We feel that the maintenance of good working relationships with representatives of commercial organizations is highly important. We commend meetings at top level between industry and Agricultural Extension on matters of both subject matter and policy. In many cases, joint recommendations from all interested groups have been used to foster worthwhile Extension programs.

The relationship of the poultry specialist to disease prevention and diagnosis was discussed. We feel that the Extension specialist should emphasize disease prevention through proper management and should encourage the establishment of adequate well-staffed diagnostic laboratories and their proper use.

In meeting problems and finding the proper solution, we recommend committee approach, although we are well aware how difficult it is to properly effectuate programs without sufficient finances. We recommend further that Extension specialists be freed as much as possible from the demands of numerous jobs other than true educational activities.

In the field of new developments, we must continue to point out to people in the industry both the advantages and limitations of any product or practice. Since each farm is an individual unit, we must continue to sell ideas that can be adapted to the individual need.

Detailed proceedings of our meeting have been kept and will be sent to each poultry specialist in the Western Region.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this conference.

